



# Catholic Charities Connections

April 2024

A Quarterly Newsletter from Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo

We are God's hands providing housing, health, and hope to His children.

Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo invites you to attend the

## Mission Possible Breakfast

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

8:00 - 9:00 am

Doors Open at 7:30 am - Program begins at 8:00 am

Kalamazoo Country Club  
1609 Whites Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

We invite you to enjoy this free event which includes breakfast, learning about the programs and services of Catholic Charities, the impact on the lives of the families we serve and being a part of expanding our mission throughout the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

You make our Mission Possible in 2024 and beyond!

### Our Sponsors and Contributors



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Please RSVP to [info@ccdok.org](mailto:info@ccdok.org)  
or online by May 8th



Go to [www.ccdok.org/mission-possible/](http://www.ccdok.org/mission-possible/)

### Our Locations:

#### Administration

1819 Gull Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

#### Caring Network/Bridges

1441 S. Westnedge  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

#### Ark Services

990 W. Kilgore  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

#### Catholic Community Center

346 Catalpa  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

#### Bread of Life Food Distribution Center

551 Romence Road  
Portage, MI 49024

#### Baraga Manor

301 Washington Street  
Otsego, MI 49078

### CONTACT US AT:

(269) 381-9800

or [info@ccdok.org](mailto:info@ccdok.org)

Help for  
**TODAY**

Hope for  
**TOMORROW**

Cultivating  
Community Centers  
**THAT ENDURE**

## Celebrating National Volunteers Week April 14 - 20, 2024

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another  
as good stewards of God's varied grace" ~Peter 4:10*

At Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo (CCDOK), we have been given the incredible privilege and responsibility to accompany those we serve on their life's journey. We pattern our work after the ministry of Jesus Christ and serve people of all faiths. At the heart of what we do is people. People seeking help, people offering help, and people who believe that we are all a community of neighbors in the nine-county Diocese of Kalamazoo. We could not do this work without our dedicated volunteers ~ approximately 135 talented and compassionate people ~ who have made a commitment through their hands and hearts to strengthen our Mission, "We are God's hands providing housing, health, and hope to His children."

Thank you for your volunteer service– packing and delivering food to families in need, collecting and organizing material donations, administrative support, cleaning, special event planning, answering phone calls for utility assistance, connecting us to your parish community, supporting our migrant community and friends with disabilities, serving on a committee or Board – this volunteer service creates a more hopeful, compassionate, and loving world and we are grateful!

If you're interested in volunteering, contact Jeannine Boehm @ [jeannineboehm@ccdok.org](mailto:jeannineboehm@ccdok.org)  
or visit [www.ccdok.org/volunteer/](http://www.ccdok.org/volunteer/)

**We look forward to hearing from you and having you join the CCDOK Volunteer Team!**



## YIL ANNOUNCEMENT !!

The Youth Independent Living (YIL) program is returning to Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo! The YIL program is part of the Ark Services for Youth program and provides services for homeless, run-away, and precariously housed youth who are between the ages of 16 and 21.

In addition to providing up to 18 months of housing in fully furnished units, the YIL Case Managers provide services to youth in a variety of areas:

- budgeting/money management,
- education planning,
- employment skill-building,
- cooking and household management,
- physical and mental health assessments, and
- psycho-social supports/resources.



Youth receive referrals and connections to community programs and resources that help them work toward achieving their housing stability and life-skill goals.

“The goal of this program”, states Shawna Henry, Director of Ark Services for Youth, “is to help youth transition to independence successfully by establishing community connections, learning and honing independent living skills, and obtaining sustainable housing.” Interested youth must complete an application for the program that can be found on CCDOK’s website or at any of our four locations in Kalamazoo and Benton Harbor.

